



## **GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK – WOMEN FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE POSITION PAPER**

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Prepared by the *genderCC Network – Women for Climate Justice*,  
together with women's organisations and gender experts from around the world

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**“There will be no climate justice without gender justice”**

### **GENDER: MISSING LINKS IN FINANCING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION**

We strongly advocate for the UNFCCC to carefully plan the future of the climate regime in conjunction with proactive gender equality and sustainability guidelines, instead of being driven by dominant economic factors.

We demand that all parties and stakeholders commit themselves to ensuring that climate change as well as mitigation and adaptation efforts shall not exacerbate the injustice, inequities and inequalities between women and men. Therefore we demand for the application of gender budgeting and gender audits in all funds. Investments in programmes for adaptation and mitigation, technology transfer, capacity building, etc. shall also be measured by their contribution to social justice, and gender justice in particular.

#### **We call upon governments, international agencies and all stakeholders**

- ◆ To ensure gender equity in all phases and aspects of funding: when designing, implementing, evaluating proposals, and reporting on programmes. A series of gender responsible criteria for programmes/projects should be developed, which vary according to the instrument concerned.
- ◆ To involve women and gender experts in the development of funding criteria and programmes as well as in decisions about funding. A set of exemplary criteria and indicators will be provided.
- ◆ To develop gender sensitive indicators based on the criteria mentioned above, aiming at measuring progress when reviewing the funds, programmes, and mechanisms.
- ◆ To include financial aid on the subnational level into the funds, confronting in particular the causes of vulnerability to climate change.
- ◆ To allocate 20% of all donor funds related to UNFCCC to be earmarked for activities and projects explicitly addressing women and designed and implemented by women / gender experts.

## **I. Funds under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol (GEF, SCCF, LDCF, AF<sup>1</sup>)**

Funds under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol are addressing parties, and country driven projects. Focal areas as well as focal countries vary depending on the funds. Nevertheless, although the implementation of projects is in the responsibility of the countries, there should be clearly defined criteria on social and economic justice, women's human rights, and environmental sustainability which must be met by the host countries.

We demand that any funding under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol must pursue strict environmental sustainability requirements, and also substantively and genuinely contribute to the reduction of poverty and social inequalities while encompassing a gender perspective. The 'polluter pays' and the 'sufferer receives' principles should serve as a basis for all adaptation fund mechanisms.

Attention should be paid to the proper participation of women. Meeting of quantitative targets is but one aspect. Of more importance is the efficacy and effectiveness of their participation. Primary consideration are the likely impacts of programmes on the social situation of men and women in areas all aspects of their lives (e.g. aid employment, leisure, care work). Gender analysis should be mandatory considering the current situation in urban, peri-urban and rural surroundings.

For a first step, we recommend these funds should jointly support a study to be undertaken by experts of the gendercc-network at regional level aiming to improve the knowledge about gender impacts of the programmes.

Questions to be answered should include:

- ◆ To what extent and in which positions are women involved in programme planning and implementation?
- ◆ Have gender-specific aspects been taken into account when designing/developing the programme?
- ◆ Are gender-specific aspects being taken into account when defining the target group(s) / beneficiaries?
- ◆ Are entry-points strategies developed in the programme to involve both women and men? Do these have a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic sensitivity and respect for diversity to accomplish objectives?
- ◆ Are coherence between the programmes objectives and measures to reduce poverty?

Adaptation must be defined as an integrated concept, which is targeting the causes of vulnerability of social groups, and in particular of women. As for AF, the 2% levy on CDM credits is not sufficient to finance even the most urgent adaptation efforts. New funding mechanisms are needed to cover the costs of adaptation for those countries contributing proportionally little to climate change and lack the resources to cope with the impacts. The same should apply within nations, where women and the poor suffer the impacts of climate change disproportionately, among others due to lack of information and capacity and financial constraints.

- ◆ Funds should have criteria for assuring an engendered learning process, drawing upon best practices from the United Nations system and civil society experiences that have expertise in gender, benefits for women and rural livelihoods
- ◆ We urge governments and international agencies to allocate funding for the creation of indicators and of gender audits of the funds, which could pave the way for learning.

### *Donor and recipient coordination*

- ◆ The burden of capacity building for different modalities of reporting and accountability mechanisms should be included in the funding. Together with recipient coordination for gender work this aims to create an "enabling environment" and access for women and gender experts, assuring reference to new aid modalities.
- ◆ It must be assured that the 2% levy of CDM credits for the adaptation fund is additional to 'existing' Disaster Risk Reduction budgets available.

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<sup>1</sup> Financial mechanisms under the Global Environment Facility, Special Climate Change Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, Adaptation Fund

## **II. Financing technology transfer**

Technology priorities are identified on the basis of analyzing technology needs and needs assessments, developed by parties in a consultative process with different stakeholders. Women are rarely represented amongst these stakeholders, and consequently their technology needs to mitigate and to adapt to climate change are not sufficiently taken into account.

Women have a strong body of traditional knowledge which is used in disaster mitigation and adaptation. Proper acknowledgement, protection and financial support should be available to sustain this knowledge.

The International Energy Agency estimates USD\$17 trillion needed to meet global demands on energy structure by 2030; The World Bank calculates that around USD\$30 billion/year will have to be spent to 'green' that structure. Unfortunately, energy and climate-related technologies often address technologies that are neither appropriate, nor accessible, to rural and/or smaller communities. Women build the majority of those lacking access to energy in general and energy-efficient technologies in particular. Additionally, limited resources and cash generally restrict women's use of technologies that might increase their productivity and give them access to credit with relevant training, education, and land.

In order to meet women's livelihood needs, we call for governments to:

- ◆ Identify strategies for technology exchange processes, which help rural and indigenous women increase household productivity and alleviate work loads, while mitigating or adapting to climate change;
- ◆ Facilitate the exchange of technologies that offer ecologically sustainable and socially equitable solutions for developing countries and for women and men within these countries
- ◆ Technologies are at best a partial solution, sometimes they are even part of the problem. In order to contribute to the goal of climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies must be embedded in broader activities related to capacity building for users of the technologies and for decision makers who have to create the institutional environment. This is in particular important regarding women's technological needs. Additionally, technologies should be properly adapted to women's needs.

## **III. Market based approaches**

We doubt, whether market based approaches generally apply to sectors and areas that are not yet market-driven. Among others, problems of these approaches are, firstly that markets are oriented towards short-term profitability, but climate policy needs also a long-term perspective in order to achieve the profound cuts in GHG emissions that are required. Secondly, creating markets geared towards GHG reduction tend to neglect other factors that constitute sustainable development, like social justice, gender equality or poverty reduction. And third, the benefits of current market-based financing mechanisms are exclusionary to the majority of the world's poor, including women, and to non commercial sectors and applications. Women and men don't have equal access to property, money, funds and markets. Their benefits from (inadequate) funds and financing mechanisms are, likewise, inequitable. Finally, the carbon-cycling capacity of the Earth should not be treated merely as a commodity and adaptation and mitigation policies should not be constrained by World Trade organisation regulations.

Therefore, we suggest

- ◆ A moratorium on market based solutions until a proper assessment is made about the impacts on women.
- ◆ A gender analysis of market-based approaches aiming to examine their effects on individuals and local communities
- ◆ the expansion of non-market based financing mechanisms for those populations lacking access to market schemes.
- ◆ The prioritisation of other policy and funding instruments when addressing sectors, where market forces are not yet existing, or would lead to adverse effects, e.g. forest preservation.

**More information**

General info on financing for gender equality and women empowerment: UN Division for the advancement of Women: Expert group meeting on financing for gender equality:  
[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/financing\\_gender\\_equality/egm\\_financing\\_gender\\_equality.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/financing_gender_equality/egm_financing_gender_equality.htm)

Lorena Aguilar: Gender indicators. GENDER makes the difference. Fact sheet IUCN  
<http://www.iucn.org/congress/2004/women/Gender%20Indicators.pdf>

BRIDGE: Gender and indicators. Gender and Development InBrief. Bridge Bulletin, issue 19, August 2007. [http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/Docs/InBrief19\\_Indicators.pdf](http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/Docs/InBrief19_Indicators.pdf)

Annalise Moser/BRIDGE: GENDER and INDICATORS. Overview Report. Institute of Development Studies July 2007. <http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/reports/IndicatorsORfinal.pdf>

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